TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 13, 2019 0900 Update

Incident Management Objectives:
Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management.

Incident Overview:
On November 27, 2019, a report was received from the National Response Center about an explosion at a facility in Port Neches, TX.

A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents within a four-mile radius of the site were ordered to evacuate. The evacuation was lifted at 1000 on November 29, 2019.

Executive Overview:
- Starting on December 12, 2019, UC began a 48-hour operational period.
- Since the last update Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD continue to remain open. Air monitoring teams from TPC (CTEH), TCEQ, and EPA continued to perform community air monitoring in the area of the schools.
- On the evening of December 9, 2019, EPA, ATSDR, and TPCN participated in a Port Neches-Groves ISD board meeting; sharing response status and answering any questions or concerns.
- The ATSDR team demobilized on December 11, 2019, after providing support through engaging local health officials and addressing questions on human-health concerns.
- Two low-volume / low-pressure fires reported by TPC on December 6, 2019, continue to burn. These fires appear to pose no threat and will be allowed to burn out on their own.

- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the work area for 1,3-butadiene:
  - Conducted 558 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 9, 2019 thru 1430 on December 10, 2019. Ten detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.41 ppm.
  - Conducted 522 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 10, 2019 thru 1430 on December 11, 2019. Eight detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 1.12 ppm.
  - Conducted 577 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 11, 2019 thru 1430 on December 12, 2019. Twelve detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 1.28 ppm.
  - Conducted 353 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 12, 2019 thru 0815 on December 13, 2019. Thirty-one detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 9.42 ppm.
- ~~Nov 27 @ 0500 to Dec 13 @ 0850. CTEH air monitoring in the work area:~~
  - ~~1,3-butadiene. 6,388 readings, 531 detects, 1.534 avg detects, 17.07 max.~~
  - ~~PM2.5. 958 readings, 958 detects, 0.034 avg detects, 1.21 max.~~
  - ~~VOC's. 6,954 readings, 517 detects, 1.513 avg detects, 39.5 max.~~
- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the community for 1,3-butadiene:
  - Conducted 2,053 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 9, 2019 thru 1430 on December 10, 2019. eleven detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.13 ppm.
  - Conducted 1,965 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 10, 2019 thru 1430 on December 11, 2019. Ten detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.40 ppm.
  - Conducted 993 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 11, 2019 thru 1430 on December 12, 2019. Six detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.17 ppm.
  - Conducted 769 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 12, 2019 thru 0815 on December 13, 2019. Forty-five detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 1.27 ppm.
- ~~Nov 27 @ 0500 to Dec 13 @ 0850. CTEH air monitoring in the community:~~
  - ~~1,3-butadiene. 24,806 readings, 632 detects, 0.847 avg detects, 12.09 max.~~
  - ~~PM2.5. 4,738 readings, 4,737 detects, 0.025 avg detects, 0.755 max.~~
  - ~~VOC's. 25,071 readings, 459 detects, 0.856 avg detects, 12.9 max.~~
- EPA continued community handheld air monitoring from December 9, 2019 thru December 12, 2019 with a team on standby ~~til~~ until December 13, 2019. No EPA concentrations above the action level have been detected in the community since December 5, 2019.
- ASPECT was ~~stood down~~demobilized on the evening of December 9, 2019 after conducting aerial air monitoring in the vicinity of the Site and downwind community.
- EPA continued daily surface water sampling from December 9, 2019 thru December 12, 2019. EPA collected 5 surface water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 surface water sample upstream of the incident.
- ~~On December 9, 2019, TPC provided their on-site tank status evaluation for each tank.~~
- TPC continues responding to reports to the hotline for recovering debris from the explosions. To date, all wipe samples have been non-detect for Asbestos.
- As of December 12, 2019, there have been no wildlife hotline calls for 120 hours. Wildlife Response personnel are on call, with no EOC presence since December 9, 2019.
- On December 11, 2019, Unified Command (UC) approved the Environmental Assessment Reduction Plan.
- On December 11, 2019, UC approved the Preliminary Data Summary for the Reduction of Air Monitoring and Sampling Activities Plan.

Commented [SB1]: Can we say no exceedances of ?? have been seen since ?? date

Commented [SB2]: We should say what this is.

Commented [SB3]: Same here

- As of December 13, TPC has reported three tanks (33, 35, and 36) with ~~lazy~~ minor vapor emission leaks. Listing tank 33, containing high butane raffinate, continues to leak and is being assessed as to how to address safely. Tank 35 has a lazy vapor leaking flange. Tank 36 has a lazy leaking relief valve. No resulting community air monitoring measurements or off-site impacts observed from these three tanks ~~as of 0900~~.

Following discussions with TCEQ and TPC regarding current Site conditions, the water operations going to maintenance on December 13, 2019, the community air monitoring being below action levels since December 6, 2019, and no off-site impact from the impacted tanks; EPA FOSC transitioned the Site to TCEQ SOSC long term remediation and Consequence Management on December 13, 2019. EPA will continue to monitor the situation and TPC ~~shall~~ will notify the EPA FOSC upon securing the three leaking tanks, and a final report upon completion of their response effort. The EPA FOSC may reactivate ~~and stand Unified Command back up~~ in the event any emergencies arise during the follow up work by TPC to complete their response to the November 27, 2019 incident. The transition plan was signed by EPA, TCEQ, and TPC and ~~effective and~~ transmitted to TPC on December 13, 2019 at 0900.

This will be the Final Management Update.